

Jordan Lake One Water

Newsletter | May 2020



What's New?

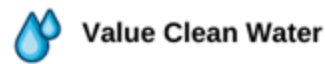
As many of you know, Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) is undertaking a planning process to develop an integrated watershed management plan for the Jordan Lake watershed with policy, operational, and financial recommendations. To accomplish this ambitious task, JLOW formed five workgroups, led by members, to tackle the following objectives:

- Identify integrated watershed management implementation opportunities
- Develop evaluation methods for projects, policies, and strategies
- Determine feasible monitoring & reporting procedures
- Evaluate potential financial structures
- Evaluate potential organizational structures

These workgroups have been meeting on a regular basis since January to develop specific recommendations, which will be shared with the larger stakeholder group for additional input and feedback later this year. The purpose of this newsletter is to help everyone stay informed throughout this process. Please keep reading to learn more about our most recent activities.

Defining Goals & Benefits

Jordan Lake One Water represents a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the watershed. Each bring their own unique perspective and community interests to the table. At our last large stakeholder meeting on October 30, 2019, JLOW members participated in a workshop to identify benefits to their communities from improving water quality. We were blown away by the overwhelming number of thoughtful, creative, and inspiring responses! A small group of volunteers helped compile and group similar responses. The following 6 benefits rose to the top.



Value Clean Water



Reduce Costs



**Increase Access to
the Natural World**



**Strengthen
Communities**



**Improve Health
& Activity**



**Improve Economic
Development**

These benefits align well with the U.S. Water Alliance's six arenas for action, which were developed to help guide One Water efforts across the country.

- Healthy Ecosystems
- Resilient Water Utilities
- Thriving Places
- Competitive Business and Industry
- Robust Agriculture
- Social and Economic Inclusion



Based on all of your responses, there is a clear need for collective action to address growing challenges in the Jordan Lake watershed. Our mission is to provide an avenue for diverse stakeholders to come together and advance common solutions that not only improve water quality, but also result in better quality of life throughout the watershed. The following three goals were developed to reflect that mission.

- Economic – Foster a robust, prosperous, and viable economy.
 - Societal – Enhance the health, vitality, and well-being of citizens and communities.
 - Environmental – Improve the hydrological, geological, and ecological function of the watershed.
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Workgroup Updates

[Signup for a workgroup!](#)



IWM Implementation

The IWM Implementation workgroup is the largest JLOW workgroup and is made up of over 20 representatives from local governments, non-profits, state agencies, and private businesses. Since January, the IWM workgroup has held four meetings and developed an initial draft report, which identifies potential policy and regulatory barriers to an IWM approach, as well as strategies that would support triple bottom line benefits. Workgroup members have provided feedback to be included in the next revision. The group will continue to refine and fill in remaining gaps, then identify time sensitive pilot projects to illuminate potential problems with implementation.

Evaluation Methods

The Evaluation Methods workgroup is made up of over 10 representatives from local governments, non-profits, state agencies, and private businesses. Since January, the Evaluation Methods workgroup has held three meetings to develop a screening and selection process for watershed management strategies that provide triple bottom line benefits. Group members have looked at several existing tools, including [Envision](#) by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, the [Triple Bottom Line Assessment Model](#) by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and other examples from the Upper Neuse River Basin. The group plans to combine the best elements of each of these tools to develop two products: a list of initial screening questions and a



more detailed evaluation tool that quantifies triple bottom line benefits.



Monitoring & Reporting

The Monitoring and Reporting workgroup is made up of over 15 representatives from local governments, non-profits, state agencies, and private businesses. Since January, the Monitoring and Reporting workgroup has held four meetings to identify ways that JLOW could measure and quantify the economic, social, and environmental benefits of JLOW initiatives. Group members have looked at several example monitoring and reporting tools, such as the N.C. Department of Transportation's [Performance Management Dashboard](#) and Burlington's [Little Alamance Creek Reporting Tool](#), defined purposes for monitoring and reporting, and identified the various audiences that monitoring and reporting would serve. Over the next month, workgroup members will determine specific metrics to track progress and benefits of watershed projects.

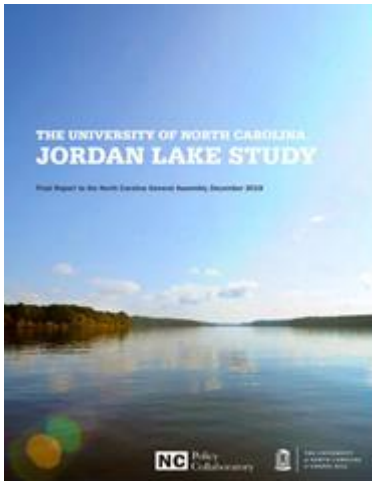
Organizational & Financial Structure



The organization and financial structure workgroups are made up of over 10 representatives each from local governments, non-profits, state agencies, universities, and private businesses. Both workgroups held kickoff meetings in January to begin evaluating potential organizational and financial structures to support an integrated watershed management approach in the Jordan Lake watershed. After initial discussions, it was determined that both groups would benefit from postponing meetings until the other three

workgroups have shared draft recommendations to better align organizational and financial structures with anticipated operational functions. Meetings will pick back up later this year.

Other News



N.C. Policy Collaboratory Reports

The North Carolina Policy Collaboratory has completed its three-year study of Jordan Lake and submitted its final report to the North Carolina General Assembly. The report examines the current state of the lake, evaluates water quality strategies and identifies new funding and policy opportunities. The full UNC Jordan Lake study report and supporting research can be accessed from the University of North Carolina's website.

[Read More](#)



\$8.5 Million Awarded for Conservation Easements

The N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services has been awarded \$8.5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to support conservation easements in the Upper Cape Fear. Priority for funding will be given to working areas that face the greatest threat to development and the best opportunity for runoff mitigation.

[Read More](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, May 15th | IWM Implementation Workgroup Meeting
Friday, May 22nd | Monitoring & Reporting Workgroup Meeting
Tuesday, May 26th | Evaluation Methods Workgroup Meeting
Wednesday, May 27th | Elected Officials Meeting

For more information, visit our website at:

www.tjcog.org/jlow